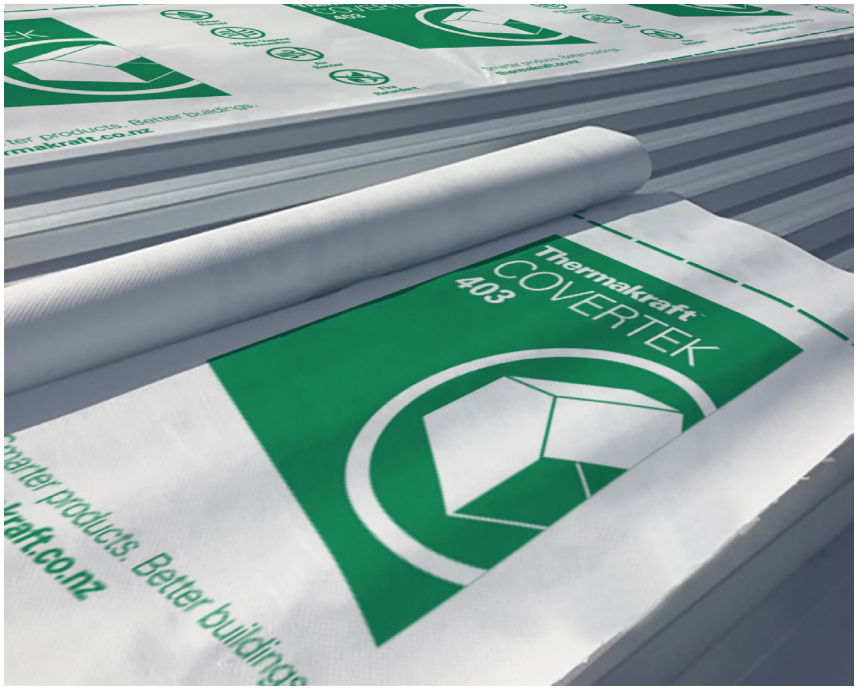
BRANZ Appraised
Appraisal No. 917 [2020]

THERMAKRAFT COVERTEK 403 ROOF AND WALL UNDERLAY



Appraisal No. 917 (2020)

This Appraisal replaces BRANZ Appraisal No. 917 (2016) and No. 918 (2016)

BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of products for building and construction.

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Product

1.1 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay is a fire retardant, synthetic building underlay for use under roof and wall claddings. The product consists of a micro-porous, water-resistant film, laminated to two layers of non-woven spun-bonded polyolefin.

Scope

Roof Underlay

2.1 Thermakraft Covertek 403 has been appraised for use as a non self-supporting roof underlay on buildings within the following scope:

- the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1 for timber-framed buildings; or,
- the scope limitations of NASH Building Envelope Solutions, Paragraph 1.1 for steel-framed buildings; and,
- with masonry tile roof cladding; and,
- with metal tile and profiled metal roof cladding; and,
- situated in NZS 3604 and NASH Standard Part 2 Wind Zones up to, and including, Extra High.

Flexible Wall Underlay

2.2 Thermakraft Covertek 403 has also been appraised for use as a flexible wall underlay for buildings within the following scope:

- the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1 for timber-framed buildings; or,
- the scope limitations of NASH Building Envelope Solutions, Paragraph 1.1 for steel-framed buildings; and,
- with direct fixed absorbent and non-absorbent wall claddings; or,
- with absorbent and non-absorbent wall claddings installed over an 18 mm minimum drained cavity; or,
- with masonry veneer in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 for timber-framed buildings or to NASH Building Envelope Solutions for steel-framed buildings; and,
- situated in NZS 3604 and NASH Standard Part 2 Wind Zones up to, and including, Very High; or,
- situated in NZS 3604 and NASH Standard Part 2 Wind Zones up to, and including, Extra High when used over a rigid wall underlay in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 or NASH Building Envelope Solutions Paragraph 9.1.7.2.

Specific Design

2.3 Thermakraft Covertek 403 has also been appraised for use on buildings subject to specific weathertightness design. Building designers are responsible for the building design and for the incorporation of Thermakraft Covertek 403 into their design in accordance with the declared properties and the instructions of Thermakraft Limited.

Building Regulations

New Zealand Building (NZBC)

3.1 **In the opinion of BRANZ, Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay, if used, designed, installed and maintained in accordance with the statements and conditions of this Appraisal, will meet, or contribute to meeting the following provisions of the NZBC:**

Clause B2 DURABILITY: Performance B2.3.1 (a), not less than 50 years, B2.3.1 (b), 15 years and B2.3.2. Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay meets these requirements. See Paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2.

Clause C3 FIRE AFFECTING AREAS BEYOND THE FIRE SOURCE: Performance C3.4 (c). Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay meets this requirement. See Paragraph 10.1.

Clause E2 EXTERNAL MOISTURE: Performance E2.3.2. When used as part of the roof or wall cladding system, Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay will contribute to meeting this requirement. See Paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2.

Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS: Performance F2.3.1. Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay meets this requirement.

Technical Specification

4.1 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay is a synthetic building underlay for use under roof and wall claddings. The product consists of a micro-porous water-resistant film, laminated to two layers of non-woven spun-bonded polyolefin. Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay is coloured white on the top and bottom faces.

4.2 The product is supplied in rolls 1.35 m wide x 18.6 m, 37.0 m and 55.0 m long. The product is printed with the Covertek 403 logo repeated along the length of the roll. The rolls are wrapped in clear polythene film.

Accessories

4.3 Accessories used with Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay which are supplied by the installer are:

- **Fixings** - stainless steel staples, clouts, screws or proprietary underlay fixings, or other temporary fixings to attach the underlay to the framing.
- **Roof underlay support (timber frame)** - polypropylene strap, or minimum 0.9 mm diameter galvanised steel wire mesh where required to support the roof underlay in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 8.1.5.1. (Note: The mesh must be galvanised in accordance with AS/NZS 4534.)
- **Roof underlay support (steel frame)** - polypropylene strap, or minimum 0.9 mm diameter galvanised steel wire mesh where required to support the roof underlay in accordance with NASH Building Envelope Solutions, Paragraph 8.1.5.1. (Note: The mesh must be galvanised in accordance with AS/NZS 4534.)
- **Wall underlay restraint (timber frame)** – polypropylene strap, 75 mm galvanised mesh or galvanised wire, or vertical cavity battens where required to restrain the wall underlay in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.8.5.
- **Wall underlay restraint (steel frame)** – polypropylene strap, 75 mm galvanised mesh or galvanised wire, or vertical cavity battens where required to restrain the wall underlay in accordance with NASH Building Envelope Solutions, Paragraph 9.1.9.5.

- **Thermal break sheathing (steel framing)** – in accordance with NASH Building Envelope Solutions, Paragraph 11.4.3.2.

Handling and Storage

5.1 Handling and storage of the product, whether on-site or off-site, is under the control of the installer. The rolls must be protected from damage and weather. They must be stored on end, under cover, in clean, dry conditions and must not be crushed.

Technical Literature

6.1 Refer to the Appraisals listing on the BRANZ website for details of the current Technical Literature for Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay. The Technical Literature must be read in conjunction with this Appraisal. All aspects of design, use, installation and maintenance contained in the Technical Literature and within the scope of this Appraisal must be followed.

Design Information

General

7.1 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay is intended for use as an alternative to conventional kraft paper underlays, which are fixed over timber or steel-framed roofs and walls. The underlay is intended to limit the entry of wind into the roof and wall cavities. For roofs the underlay assists in the moisture management of the roof cladding system and for walls it acts as a secondary barrier to wind-driven rain. Refer to Table 1 for material properties.

Table 1: Material Properties

NZBC E2/AS1 Table 23 Roof Underlay Properties	Roof Property Performance Requirement	Wall Property Performance Requirement	Results
Absorbency	≥ 150 g/m^2	≥ 100 g/m^2	Pass ≥ 150 g/m^2
Vapour Resistance	≤ 7 MN s/g	≤ 7 MN s/g	Pass
Water Resistance	≥ 100 mm	≥ 20 mm	Pass ≥ 100 mm
pH of Extract	≥ 6.0 and ≤ 9.0	≥ 6.0 and ≤ 9.0	Pass
Shrinkage	≤ 0.5%	≤ 0.5%	Pass
Mechanical	Edge tear and tensile strength	Edge tear and tensile strength	**Edge tear (Average):** Machine direction = 217N Cross direction = 104 N **Tensile strength (Average):** Machine direction = 4.57 kN/m Cross direction = 2.63 kN/m
Air Barrier	Not applicable	Air resistance ≥ 0.1 MN s/m^3	Pass. Thermakraft Covertek 403 can be used as an air barrier

7.2 The material also provides a degree of temporary weather protection during early construction. However, the product will not make the building weathertight and some wetting of the underlying structure is always possible before the cladding is installed. Hence, the entire building must be closed-in and made weatherproof before moisture sensitive materials such as internal linings and insulation materials are installed.

7.3 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay must not be exposed to the weather or ultraviolet (UV) light for a total of more than 7 days before being covered by the cladding when used as a roof underlay, or for more than 42 days when used a wall underlay.

Timber and Steel Framing

7.4 Timber and steel framing must be provided in accordance with the requirements of the NZBC and the cladding manufacturer.

Use as a Roof Underlay

7.5 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay is suitable for use under roof claddings on buildings as a roof underlay in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 Table 23 for timber-framed buildings and NASH Building Envelope Solutions Table 23 for steel-framed buildings.

7.6 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay is suitable for use in residential and commercial roofs with roof pitches of minimum 10° and above and must be fully supported with a corrosion resistance roof underlay support. Thermakraft Covertek 403 can be installed vertically and horizontally and must span no more than 300 mm in one direction. *[Note: For roof pitches less than 10°, Thermakraft Limited recommends the use of Thermakraft Covertek 407. Refer to BRANZ Appraisal No. 651].*

7.7 Refer to Table 2 for a summary of the roof underlay support requirements.

Table 2: Roof Underlay Support Requirements

Roof Pitch	Span	Roof Underlay Support Required?	
		Horizontally Installed	Vertically Installed
10° or more	Greater than 300 mm	Yes	Yes
	300 mm or less	No	No

Use as a Wall Underlay

7.8 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay is suitable for use under wall claddings as a wall underlay in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 23 on timber-framed buildings and NASH Building Envelope Solutions Table 23 on steel-framed buildings, including non-absorbent wall claddings such as vinyl and metal-based weatherboards in direct fixed situations.

7.9 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay is suitable for use as an air barrier where walls are not lined, such as attic spaces at gable ends, in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 or NASH Building Envelope Solutions, Paragraph 9.1.4 (c).

7.10 In cavity installations where the cavity battens are installed at greater than 450 mm centres, Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay must be restrained between the battens to prevent the underlay bulging into the cavity space when bulk insulation is installed in the wall frame cavity. Refer to NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.8.5 for timber frame or NASH Building Envelope Solutions, Paragraph 9.1.9.5 for steel frame. Wall underlay restraint options include polypropylene strap, 75 mm galvanised mesh or galvanised wire, vertical cavity battens or thermal break sheathing (steel frame only).

Structure

8.1 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay is suitable for use in all Wind Zones of NZS 3604 and NASH Standard Part 2 up to, and including, Very High when used as a stand-alone flexible wall underlay, and all Wind Zones of NZS 3604 and NASH Standard Part 2 up to, and including, Extra High when used as an overlay for rigid wall underlays or as a roof underlay.

Durability

9.1 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay meets code compliance with NZBC Clause B2.3.1 (a), not less than 50 years for underlays used where the roof or wall cladding durability requirement or expected serviceable life is not less than 50 years, e.g. behind masonry roof tile cladding or masonry veneer. It also meets code compliance with NZBC Clause B2.3.1 (b), 15 years for underlays used where the roof or wall cladding durability requirement is 15 years.

Serviceable Life

9.2 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay is expected to have a serviceable life equal to that of the cladding. This is provided the cladding is maintained in accordance with the cladding manufacturer's instructions and the cladding remains weather resistant. In addition, the product must not be exposed to the weather or UV light for a total of more than 7 days when used as a roof underlay prior to installation of the roofing. When used as a wall underlay a total exposure of 42 days applies prior to installation of the wall cladding.

Control of Internal Fire and Smoke Spread

10.1 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay has an AS 1530 Part 2 flammability index of not greater than 5 and therefore meets the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS1 and C/AS2, Paragraph 4.17.8 b), for the surface finish requirements of suspended flexible fabric used as an underlay to exterior cladding that is exposed to view in occupied spaces.

Prevention of Fire Occurring

11.1 Separation or protection must be provided to Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay from heat sources such as fireplaces, heating appliances, flues and chimneys. Part 7 of NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS1 and C/AS2 and NZBC Verification Method C/VM1 provide methods for separation and protection of combustible materials from heat sources.

External Moisture

12.1 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay must only be used under claddings that meet the requirements of the NZBC, such as those covered by NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 or NASH Building Envelope Solutions, or claddings covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal.

12.2 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay, when installed in accordance with the Technical Literature and this Appraisal, will assist in the total cladding system's compliance with NZBC Clause E2.

Installation Information

Installation Skill Level Requirements

13.1 All design and building work must be carried out in accordance with the Technical Literature and this Appraisal by competent and experienced tradespersons conversant with underlays. Where the work involves Restricted Building Work (RBW) this must be completed by, or under the supervision of, a Licensed Building Practitioner (LBP) with the relevant Licence Class.

Underlay Installation

General

14.1 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay must be fixed at maximum 300 mm centres to all framing members with large-head clouts 20 mm long, 6-8 mm stainless steel staples, self-drilling screws or proprietary underlay fixings. The membrane must be pulled taut over the framing before fixing.

14.2 When fixing the product in windy conditions, care must be taken due to the large sail area created.

14.3 Any damaged areas of Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay, such as tears, holes or gaps around service penetrations, must be repaired. Damaged areas can be repaired by covering with new material lapping the damaged area by at least 150 mm and taping, or by taping small tears.

Roof Underlay

14.4 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay may be run horizontally or vertically. Refer to Table 2 for a summary of roof underlay support requirements. The roof underlay must extend from the ridge and overhang the fascia board by 20-25 mm.

14.5 Vertical laps must be no less than 150 mm wide. Horizontal laps must also be no less than 150 mm, with the direction of the lap ensuring that water is shed to the outer face of the underlay. End laps must be made over framing and be no less than 150 mm wide. To assist with achieving the correct lap dimension, Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay has a 150 mm lap line printed continuously along the top face.

Wall Underlay

14.6 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay must be run horizontally and must extend from the upper-side of the top plate to the under-side of the bearers or wall plates supporting ground floor joists, or below bottom plates on concrete slabs. Horizontal laps must be no less than 150 mm wide, with the direction of the lap ensuring that water is shed to the outer face of the underlay. End laps must be made over framing and be no less than 150 mm wide.

14.7 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay should be run over openings and these left covered until windows and doors are ready to be installed. Openings are formed in the underlay by cutting on a 45 degree diagonal from each corner of the penetration. The flaps of the cut underlay must be folded inside the opening and stapled to the penetration framing. Excess underlay may be cut off flush with the internal face of the wall frame.

14.8 Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay can be added as a second layer over head flashings in accordance with the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.10.3 for timber framing or NASH Building Envelope Solutions Paragraph 9.1.11.3 for steel framing.

Inspections

14.9 The Technical Literature must be referred to during the inspection of Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay installations.

Basis of Appraisal

The following is a summary of the technical investigations carried out:

Tests

15.1 The following tests have been carried out on Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 23: tensile strength, edge-tear resistance and resistance to water vapour transmission in accordance with AS/NZS 4200.1, shrinkage in accordance with AS/NZS 4201.3, resistance to water penetration in accordance with AS/NZS 4201.4, surface water absorbency in accordance with AS/NZS 4201.6, pH of extract in accordance with AS/NZS 1301.421s and air resistance to BS 6538.3. A range of these tests were completed before and after Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay was exposed to UV light.

15.2 The flammability index of Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay has been evaluated in accordance with AS 1530.2.

Other Investigations

16.1 A durability opinion has been given by BRANZ technical experts.

16.2 An evaluation of the expected performance of Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay in direct contact with metal roof cladding has been completed by BRANZ.

16.3 The practicability of installation of Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay has been assessed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

16.4 The Technical Literature, including installation instructions, has been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

Quality

17.1 The manufacture of Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay has been examined by BRANZ, including methods adopted for quality control. Details regarding the quality and composition of the materials used were obtained by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

17.2 The quality of supply to the market is the responsibility of Thermakraft Limited.

17.3 Building designers are responsible for the design of the building, and for the incorporation of the roof underlay into their design in accordance with the instructions of Thermakraft Limited.

17.4 Quality of installation is the responsibility of the installer in accordance with the instructions of Thermakraft Limited.

Sources of Information

- AS 1530.2: 1993 Test for flammability of materials.
- AS/NZS 1301.421s: 1998 Determination of the pH value of aqueous extracts of paper, board and pulp - Cold extraction method.
- AS/NZS 4200.1: 1994 Pliable building membranes and underlays - Materials.
- AS/NZS 4201.3: 1994 Pliable building membranes and underlays - Methods of test – Shrinkage.
- AS/NZS 4201.4: 1994 Pliable building membranes and underlays - Methods of test – Resistance to water penetration.
- AS/NZS 4201.6: 1994 Pliable building membranes and underlays - Methods of test – Surface water absorbency.
- BS 6538.3: 1987 Method for determination of air permeance using the Garley apparatus.
- NASH Building Envelope Solutions: 2019 Light steel framed buildings.
- NASH Standard Part Two: 2019 Light steel framed buildings.
- NZS 2295: 2006 Pliable, permeable building underlays.
- NZS 3604: 2011 Timber-framed buildings.
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Record of amendments - Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods and handbooks.
- The Building Regulations 1992.

BRANZ

In the opinion of BRANZ, Thermakraft Covertek 403 Roof and Wall Underlay is fit for purpose and will comply with the Building Code to the extent specified in this Appraisal provided it is used, designed, installed and maintained as set out in this Appraisal.

The Appraisal is issued only to Thermakraft Limited, and is valid until further notice, subject to the Conditions of Appraisal.

Conditions of Appraisal

1. This Appraisal:
   a) relates only to the product as described herein;
   b) must be read, considered and used in full together with the Technical Literature;
   c) does not address any Legislation, Regulations, Codes or Standards, not specifically named herein;
   d) is copyright of BRANZ.
2. Thermakraft Limited:
   a) continues to have the product reviewed by BRANZ;
   b) shall notify BRANZ of any changes in product specification or quality assurance measures prior to the product being marketed;
   c) abides by the BRANZ Appraisals Services Terms and Conditions;
   d) warrants that the product and the manufacturing process for the product are maintained at or above the standards, levels and quality assessed and found satisfactory by BRANZ pursuant to BRANZ's Appraisal of the product.
3. BRANZ makes no representation or warranty as to:
   a) the nature of individual examples of, batches of, or individual installations of the product, including methods and workmanship;
   b) the presence or absence of any patent or similar rights subsisting in the product or any other product;
   c) any guarantee or warranty offered by Thermakraft Limited.
4. Any reference in this Appraisal to any other publication shall be read as a reference to the version of the publication specified in this Appraisal.
5. BRANZ provides no certification, guarantee, indemnity or warranty, to Thermakraft Limited or any third party.

For BRANZ

Chelydra Percy
Chief Executive

Date of Issue:
27 November 2020